

News & Notes from the National Institute of Nursing Research: June 2012

1. NINR Welcomes New Deputy Director Dr. Ann Knebel

NINR is pleased to announce that Ann R. Knebel, RN, DNSc, FAAN, has joined the Institute as its new Deputy Director.

“Dr. Knebel brings a wealth of research, administrative, clinical, and public health expertise to NINR,” said NINR Director Dr. Patricia A. Grady. “We’re excited she is re-joining the NIH community.” Prior to joining NINR Dr. Knebel served as the deputy director for the Office of Preparedness Planning, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), and as an NINR program director in the Office of Extramural Programs and as a program analyst in the NINR Office of Science Policy and Public Liaison. During her tenure at NINR, she also served as the first chair of the Trans-HHS End-of-Life Research Interest Group. She began her NIH career as a pulmonary clinical nurse specialist at the NIH Clinical Center, where she conducted research on illness severity, quality-of-life, and the influence of oxygen therapy on functional ability in individuals with alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency.

At ASPR Knebel applied her scientific expertise to shape and guide the emerging scientific fields of disaster preparedness and preparedness for mass gatherings. She has been instrumental in U.S. preparedness planning and surge capacity initiatives as well as Federal public health and medical response and recovery planning. During her tenure at ASPR, she helped the Greek Ministry of Health prepare for the 2004 Summer Olympics and served a 9-month detail with the New York City Office of Emergency Management to develop bioterrorism plans. As an expert consultant for international preparedness planning she has worked on the World Health Organization-sponsored advisory group on mass gathering preparedness.

Knebel has received numerous awards and special honors, including Public Health Service Outstanding Service Medals, the Office of the Chief Nurse Faye G. Abdellah Publication Award, the Hasselmeyer Award for Research Initiatives, and the NIH Clinical Center Distinguished Nurse Award. In 2008 she was one of the first recipients of the Hubert H. Humphrey Award for Service to America. The American Thoracic Society has twice awarded her the Marilyn Hansen Meritorious Nursing Research Award.

Knebel has served on the Respiratory Nursing Society Board of Directors, American Association of Critical Care Nurses National Study Group on Weaning from Mechanical Ventilation, and Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee of the National Alpha-1 Foundation. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

Knebel received her Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing in 1981 and a Masters of Nursing Science in 1985 from the University of Evansville, Indiana. She completed a Doctorate of Nursing Science at the University of California, San Francisco in 1990.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Knebel to NINR.

2. Five New Members Named to National Advisory Council for Nursing Research

NINR welcomes five new members to the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research (NACNR), the Institute's principal advisory board:

Julie Anderson, PhD, RN, is an Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of North Dakota. She has extensive experience in neonatal intensive care nursing, and her primary research interests center around skin and wound care. Anderson has authored or co-authored over forty articles and several book chapters on topics ranging from venous, arterial, and pressure ulcers, pressure mapping, support surfaces, maggots and honey as wound treatments, and palliative wound care.

Susan Gennaro, DSN, RN, is Dean and Professor of the Connell School of Nursing at Boston College. Her research focuses on the improvement of global perinatal health and the identification of causes of preterm birth in minority women in the U.S. Her research has been funded by the NIH for over 20 years and has also focused on improving nursing education through innovative programs to increase the number of minority nurse scientists who are trained to work with vulnerable populations.

William L. Holzemer, PhD, RN, is Professor and Dean at the Rutgers University College of Nursing. His research examines quality of nursing education, quality of nursing care, outcomes research, variation in practice, self-care symptom management, and quality of life, with special emphasis on people living with and affected by HIV infection. He recently completed an R01 research project supported by the NIH's Fogarty International Center and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) on how stigma and discrimination impacts quality of life for Africans living with HIV/AIDS and quality of work life for AIDS patient nurses.

Anne Rosenfeld, PhD, RN, is Professor and Associate Dean for Research at the University of Arizona College of Nursing. Her research focuses on symptom management for women with acute coronary syndrome. She has been principal investigator for a series of NIH- and American Heart Association-supported studies addressing women with acute coronary syndrome. She has served on the Behavioral Medicine, Interventions and Outcomes NIH Study Section. Rosenfeld has been principal investigator for HRSA projects to prepare primary care nurse practitioners for work in rural settings and has served as core faculty on several T32 and K12 training programs.

Bruce A. Schoneboom, Colonel, PhD, CRNA, FAAN, is the incoming Commander for the Army Medical Research Institute for Chemical Defense at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, MD. He has been the principal investigator of numerous funded grants and has an established funding and publication record. His research interests include investigating neuro-immune responses of the central nervous system to viral pathogens with known bioterrorist capabilities and the development of new monitoring technologies with operational and garrison applications. Schoneboom is a member of several professional organizations including the American Nurses Association, the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, the National Academy of Practice, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, and the American Academy of Nursing.

Members of the council are drawn from the scientific and lay communities, embodying a diverse perspective from the fields of nursing, public and health policy, law, and economics. The NACNR meets three times a year on the NIH campus to provide recommendations on the direction and support of the nursing, biomedical, social, and behavioral research that forms the evidence base for nursing practice. An important role of the council is to conduct a second level of review of grant applications that have been scored by scientific review groups. In addition, the council reviews the Institute's extramural programs and makes recommendations about its intramural research activities.

3. New Web Feature: “Because of Nursing Research” – Helping Families COPE With Premature Births

This month, NINR launched the first in a new series of online “Because of Nursing Research” science features to inform the public of the benefits of nursing research.

The debut article focuses on the Creating Opportunities for Parent Empowerment (COPE) program, created by NINR-supported scientist Dr. Bernadette Melnyk, Dean of the Ohio State University College of Nursing, and her associates. COPE helps empower parents of premature infants to be more involved in their infant's care, leading to better infant outcomes, shorter hospital stays, and less stress and depression for parents.

To read full details about the COPE program and how it helps parents and their premature infants, visit http://www.ninr.nih.gov/NewsAndInformation/BecauseofNursingResearch_COPE.

4. Intramural Research Training Award Recipients’ Posters Honored

On April 20, research posters by NINR IRP Intramural Research Training Award recipients Ben Majors, BS, and Ralph Michael Peace, DVM, were honored with the Scholar’s Abstract Award at the Society for Clinical and Translational Science conference. These awards recognized presenters whose abstracts were judged to be in the top 10 percent at the meeting.

Major’s poster, “Differential Expression of HSP90AA1 Associated with Fibromyalgia,” is part of a project working to identify differentially expressed genes which could help explain the etiology of fibromyalgia symptoms.

Peace’s poster, "Circulating miRNAs in IBS" revealed new techniques that may aid in the discovery of novel miRNA targets for treatment of irritable bowel syndrome patients.

Both posters were part of a poster session held at the May 15, 2012 meeting of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research.

5. Registration Now Open for 2012 Science of Eliminating Health Disparities Summit

General registration for the 2012 Science of Eliminating Health Disparities Summit is now open.

The Summit is an HHS-wide endeavor involving a broad spectrum of the federal government that seeks to advance activities to eliminate health disparities. The agenda will build on the momentum of the 2008 Summit and the increased interest of federal agencies to demonstrate their commitment towards improving the health of all Americans. The Summit represents an ongoing focus on emerging science and its intersection with practice and policy, while maintaining momentum on current national and international trends in addressing the social determinants of health.

The Summit will be held on Wednesday, October 31st through Saturday, November 3rd, 2012 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland.

General online registration is available at http://www.nimhd.nih.gov/summit_site/registration.html. Registration for concurrent sessions will open in August 2012.

For more information, please email 2012Summit@mail.nih.gov or visit http://www.nimhd.nih.gov/summit_site/index.html.

6. Current Funding Opportunity Announcements and Notices

All current NINR Funding Opportunity Announcements, including Requests for Applications (RFAs) and Program Announcements (PAs), as well as Notices of interest from NIH, are available on the NINR website at www.ninr.nih.gov/ResearchAndFunding/DEA/OEP/FundingOpportunities/default.htm.

These items can also be found in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts:
grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/index.html.